

Application No.: 09/818,969
Amendment dated July 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 13-20 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 21 and 22 are allowed.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,869,420 to Naito ("*Naito*").

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Naito* as applied to claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, and 10-12 above, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,922,528 to Weaver et al ("*Weaver*").

Claims 4 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

To date, no Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review has been received. Applicants respectfully request receipt of this document when it becomes available. Please note that the original drawings filed in the patent application are "formal" drawings.

Claims 4 and 6, which were objected to as depending from a rejected claim, have been amended to independent form. These changes do not introduce any new matter. All withdrawn or rejected claims have been canceled. Therefore, all remaining claims have been indicated to be allowable.

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CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

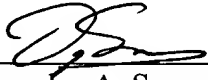
If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

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and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's
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Respectfully submitted,

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